28. (Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein the composition comprises a chiral onium cation allowing A4 enantionselective reactions.

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Appl. No. 09/390,642. Claims 6, 26, 27, and 28 are pending, with Claims 6 and 26 being independent. Claims 1-5 and 7-25 were canceled by this amendment, and Claims 6, 26, 27, and 28 were amended.

Claims 6, 26, 27, and 28 have been amended to improve their form. In addition, Claim 6 has been amended to correct minor errors contained in the formulas therein.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARK-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

6. (Amended) An ionic compound having a cation of the onium type with at least one heteroatom comprising N, O, S or P bearing the positive charge and the anion including, in whole or in part, at least one imide ion of the type $(FX^1O)N^-(OX^2F)$ wherein X^1 and X^2 are the same or different and comprise SO or PF, [A compound according to Claim 1] wherein the compound comprises at least an anion selected from Cl^-; Br^-; I^-; NO_3^-; $M(R^{10})_4^-$; $A(R^{10})_6^-$; $R^{11}YO_2^-$; [$R^{11}O_2^-$,] $R^{11}YONZ^{1-}$; [[$R^{11}ONZ^1$]$^-$,] $R^{11}YOCZ^2Z^{3-}$; [[$R^{11}YOCZ^2Z^3$]$^-$,] 4,5-dicyano-1,2,3-triazole; [,] 3,5-bis(R_F)-1,2,4-triazole; [,] tricyanomethane; [,] pentacyanocyclopentadiene; [,] pentakis(trifluormethyl)cyclopentadiene; [,] and barbituric acid, and [barbiturique acid and Meldrum acid derivatives and their substitution products];

-M is B, Al, Ga or Bi;

-A is P, As and Sb;

-R^{10} is a halogen;

-R^{11} represents H, F, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkenyl, alkenylaryl, dialkylamino, alkoxy or thioalkoxy, each having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms and being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more oxa, thia, or aza substituents, and wherein one or more hydrogen atoms are optionally replaced with

halogen in a ratio of 0 to 100%, and eventually being part of polymeric chain;

- Y represents C, SO, S=NCN, $S=C(CN)_2$, PR^{11}, $P(NCN)R^{11}$, $P(C(CN)_2)R^{11}$, and when Y is $P(NCN)R^{11}$ or $P(C(CN)_2)R^{11}$, then $R^{11}YO_2$, $R^{11}YONZ^1$, and $R^{11}YOCZ^2Z^3$ become $R^{11}YO$, $R^{11}YNZ^1$, and $R^{11}YCZ^2Z^3$, respectively, an alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkenyl, alkenylaryl having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms and optionally substituted by one or more oxa, thia or aza; a dialkylamino group $\underline{N(R^{11})_2}$ [$N(R^{10})_2$];

-Z^1, Z^2, and [to] Z^3 represent [representing] independently R^{11}, $R^{11}YO$ or CN, this group being optionally part of a polymeric chain.

26. (Amended) A method of using [The use of] an electrolytic composition [according to Claim 7 as a medium for], comprising the step of:

carrying out chemical or electrochemical reactions involving soluble species in a [the said] medium comprising said electrolytic composition,

wherein said electrolytic composition comprises at least one ionic compound of low melting point having a cation of the onium type with at least heteroatom such as N, O, S or P bearing the positive charge and the anion including, in whole or in part, at least one imide ion of the type $(FX^1O)N^-(OX^2F)$, in combination

with at least another component comprising a metallic salt, a polar polymer and/or an aprotic co-solvent.

27. (Amended) The method [A use] according to claim 26, wherein [characterized in that] the composition is used as a medium for [reactions of] Diels-Alder, Friedel-Craft, mixed aldolization [aldolisation], condensation, polymerization [polymerisation], [and for] nucleophilic substitution, and electrophilic substitution reactions [substitutions].

28. (Amended) The method [A use] according to claim 26, wherein [characterized in that] the composition comprises a chiral onium cation allowing enantionselective reactions.